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TOHAK 246

PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY.

TO: BREMER/RODMAN
FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

REF: HAKTO 109

1. WITH REGARD TO YOUR REQUEST IN HAKTO 109 FOR A NSSM REVIEW IN RESPONSE TO THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE DID A NSSM STUDY IN 1972 ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST. (THE TEXT OF THAT NSSM IS QUOTED BELOW.) I THINK PERHAPS THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN UPDATE OF THAT EARLIER NSSM. IF YOU CONCUR, I WOULD PROPOSE ISSUING THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIVE:

2. BEGIN TEXT

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT -- NSSM 156

IN LIGHT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THAT INDIA HAS CARRIED OUT A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, THE PRESIDENT HAS DIRECTED THAT THE STUDY COMPLETED IN RESPONSE TO NSSM 156 BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED. THIS ADDENDUM OF THE STUDY SHOULD FOCUS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS EVENT, THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON U.S. INTEREST AND OBJECTIVES, AND ASSESSMENT OF THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THE UNITED STATES.

THIS REVIEW AND UPDATING OF NSSM 156 SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY BY THE NSC INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP FOR THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA. IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN MAY 22, 1974 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NSC SENIOR REVIEW GROUP.
END TEXT

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SCOWCROFT, MCFALANE

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3. NSSM 156, ISSUED JULY 5, 1972, DIRECTED THAT:

BEGIN TEXT

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS
THE PRESIDENT HAS DIRECTED AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY OF AN INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST AND AN EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE POSITIONS THE U.S. MIGHT ADOPT TOWARD SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

AS BACKGROUND, THE STUDY SHOULD CONSIDER:

-- THE LIKELY IMPACTS OF A POSSIBLE TEST ON THE POLICIES AND ACTIONS OF INDIA'S NEIGHBORS IN SOUTH ASIA, OF THE USSR, OF THE PRC, AND OF OTHER KEY STATES, BOTH IN REGARD TO THEIR POLITICAL-MILITARY POLICIES AND IN REGARD TO THEIR POSITION TOWARD THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THE TEST BAN AGREEMENT;

-- THE LIKELY POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA'S OTHER POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF A POSSIBLE DECISION TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS;

-- AN INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE OF THE LIKELY TIME FRAME OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

BASED UPON THIS ANALYSIS THE STUDY SHOULD EXAMINE THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST FOR U.S. INTERESTS AND THE POLICY OPTIONS OPEN TO THE UNITED STATES IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH RESPECT TO INDIA, INDIA'S SUBCONTINENT NEIGHBORS, AND OTHER AFFECTED STATES.

THE PRESIDENT HAS REQUESTED THAT THIS STUDY BE PREPARED ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS BY AN AD HOC GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADDRESSEES AND THE NSC STAFF UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NSC INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP FOR THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA. IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NSC SENIOR REVIEW GROUP BY AUGUST 18 1972.
END TEXT

4. I WILL GET OUT AN INSTRUCTION REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST AND COORDINATE WITH HAIG TO INSURE THAT IT IS ON BOARD.

5. WARM REGARDS.
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